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Rec'd: FEBRUARY 10, 1959

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1588, FEBRUARY 10, 1 P.M.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1588, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 311 PARIS 281
BONN 202; BERLIN 113 FROM MOSCOW.

PARIS FOR EMB USRO CINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST

RE DEPTTEL 1227

IF THERE WERE REASON TO BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD ACCEPT OUR VIEW ON INSPECTION, REALIZE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE CLEAR STATEMENT OUR POSITION ON RECORD BEFORE ANY TURNOVER BY SOVS OF THEIR FUNCTIONS TO EAST GERMANS. BUT I CANNOT BELIEVE THEY ARE PREPARED DO SO. I THEREFORE CONTINUE TO FEEL STRONGLY IT WOULD BE MISTAKE ON OUR PART TO TAKE FURTHER INITIATIVE ALONG LINES PROPOSED NOTE UNTIL AND UNLESS SOVIETS HAVE MADE FURTHER MOVE. BY OUR ACTIONS IN REFUSING INSPECTION AND BY OUR NOTE TO SOVS OF FEB 4 WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR AND IF NOTHING FURTHER DEVELOPS WE ARE IN AS STRONG A POSITION AS WE CAN HOPE TO BE. MOREOVER WE WOULD BE IN FAR STRONGER POSITION WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC OPINION IF IT IS SOVS RATHER THAN WE WHO FORCE ISSUE FURTHER. IN ABSENCE OF SOME SOV ACTION EFFECT OUR NOTE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE TO EVOKE SOV COUNTER-ARGUMENT AND REJECTION OUR POSITION AND QUITE POSSIBLE SOVS WOULD THEN FEEL OBLIGED CREATE FURTHER INCIDENT IN SUPPORT THEIR POSITION.

IF OCCASION SHOULD ARISE FOR TRANSMISSION NOTE OF THIS KIND SUGGEST LAST PARA MIGHT BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE REQUEST TO SOVS FOR POSITIVE SOV CONFIRMATION OUR POSITION, WHICH TOO

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-2- 1588, FEBRUARY 10, 1 P.M. FROM MOSCOW

MUCH TO EXPECT, AND THAT NOTE MERELY END WITH STATEMENT OUR
EXPECTATION SOVS WILL COMPLY WITH AGREEMENTS.

THOMPSON

RA/22

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